

*Lazar & Dives lyveden diversly,
& divers gerdon hadden they therby.*
CHAUCER, *The Summoner's Tale*, 1877 - 78

INVOCATION

In the Name of the One True GOD,
Most Gracious, Ever Merciful.

O Hear: The Lord Our GOD, the Lord is One.

Proclaim: GOD is Most Great! GOD is Most Great!

Testify: There is no GOD but Him - the Living, the Eternal, the Almighty,
the Immaterial, the All-Powerful, the All-Pervading & Benevolent,
the Omnipotent Lord of the Worlds, the Author of Heaven & earth
in accordance with the requirements of MA'ĀT -

truth, justice, righteousness, & wisdom

Praise belongs to GOD, the Creator of Life & death
in Whose Hand is dominion & irresistible power,
Holy Is He, & Exalted far above that which we associate with Him:
the Peaceful, the Faithful, the Guardian over His servants,
the Shelterer of the orphan & the widow, the Guide of the erring,
the Deliverer from every affliction, the Friend of the bereaved,
the Consoler of the broken-hearted & the Reliever of all distress;
in His Hand is good, & He Is the Generous Lord,
the Hearer, the Near-at-Hand, the Compassionate, the Very-forgiving,
whose love for man is more tender than that of a mother-bird for her young.

'Tis He we worship & He we ask for help.

Is He not closer than the vein of thy neck? Thou needest not
raise thy voice, for He Knoweth the secret whisper, & what is yet more hidden.

He Knows what is in the land & in the sea; no leaf falleth but He Knoweth it;
nor is there a grain in the darkness under the earth,

nor a thing green or sere, but it is recorded: in the sight of the Lord

All Men are Equal. The Decree of God Is at hand, so seek ye not to hasten It.

He sends down His Angels with Revelation by His Command
on whomsoever He Pleases, directing: Thou art man!

Cry – recite in the Name of thy Lord

Who Created everything!

Who created man from a clot of coagulated blood - from a drop of fluid.

Cry! for Thy Lord is Wondrous Kind & Most Beneficent,

Who by the pen hast taught mankind things they knew not (being blind).

Who points out the right way, for some ways are devious: the straight path
of those whom He Hast Favored, not the crooked nor the corrupt path

of those whom have incurred His Anger nor of those whom have gone astray.

Had He enforced His Will, He would have guided us all.

ii

To everyone WE Have Given a Law & a Way... & if WE Had Pleased,
 WE Would Have Made you, all mankind, one people – but Have Done otherwise, *that*
 WE Might Try you in that which WE Have Given unto thee: wherefore
 press forward unto good works. Unto US *thou shalt* Return,
 & WE Shall Tell you *that* concerning which thou dost disagree.
 WE have created man committed to toil. Does he think
 no one has power over him? He says: I have spent
 enormous wealth. Does he think no one watches him?
 Have WE not given him two eyes, & a tongue & two lips?
 & pointed out to him the two highways of good & evil?

Prostrate thyself & draw near to US.

Extol the perfection of GOD the Most Great.

All who are in Heaven & Faithful on the earth celebrate
 OUR Praises - & the birds, too, spreading out their wings; each one knoweth its prayer
 & praise. Thanks be to OUR Lord; He Is the Adorable, and only to be adored.
 OUR Lord, the Ever-Existing, the Cherisher, the True Sovereign
 whose mercy & might overshadow the universe,
 the Regulator of the world, & the Light of Creation. His Is our worship;
 He Existed before all things, & will exist after all that is living hast ceased.

iii

Thou Art to be adored, my Lord; Thou Art the Master, the Loving... O my Lord,
 Thou Art present everywhere to help & protect Thy servants... O my Lord,
 Thou Art & I *it* am only created, the beseecher, the sinner. O my Lord,
 grant me the Love of Thee, & Grant that I may Love Thee,
 Grant that I may Love those that Love Thee.
 Grant that I may do the deeds that win Thy Love.
 Make Thy Love to be dearer to me than the love of self, family or than wealth.

READ: EXODUS Ch. 3 & JOB Ch. 21

Call now! – Who will answer *to you?* & to whom *of the saints* will you turn?"
 JOB 5:1

Behold! Abraham said: "O my Lord! show me how thou givest life... *to the Dead.*"
 Qu'ran Sūra II 260